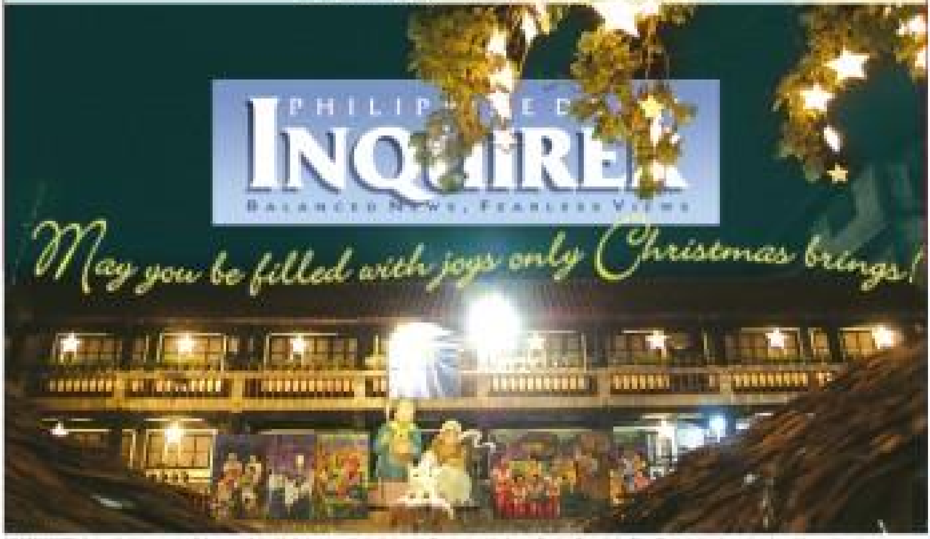


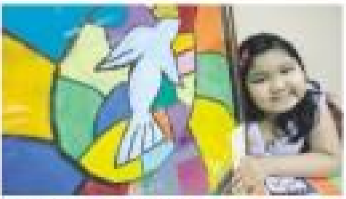
Broadcaster murdered

Davao anticorruption crusader 5th journalist slain in '07

By Dennis Jay Santos
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—A RADIO BROADCASTER WHO HAD DENOUNCED alleged corruption in the building of the "People's Park" in this city and government malfeasance will not be spending Christmas today with his four children.

70th Christmas for tree that survived 1945 atomic bomb



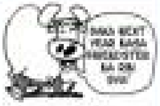
Prolific 11-year-old painter shares earnings with sick

Health experts warn revelers on deadly cholesterol

It's orange Christmas for Jalosjos in prison

From pope to Pepe: Seeing stars at Metro film fest





81-year-old queen joins YouTube gen

Second FrontPage

EZ2: 21 6 | FOUR DIGIT: 4 8 4 2

SUERTRES: 0 6 1 / 4 4 4

MEGALOTTO 6/45: 13 15 22 27 30 44

P13,401,720.00

AFP wary of Reds' truce

NPA ceasefire declaration insincere, says military

THE MILITARY YESTERDAY SAID IT WOULD REMAIN VIGILANT despite the communist rebels' declaration of a four-day ceasefire during the holidays, saying the gesture was insincere.



CHRISTMAS BEHIND BARS

Pray for the poor, Cardinal tells faithful

WHAT'S INSIDE

TARLAC AIMS to become 'Belen' capital of RP /A4

COLDER CHRISTMAS Expect a colder Christmas Day today /A8

A mother's Christmas wish: Bring my daughter back alive

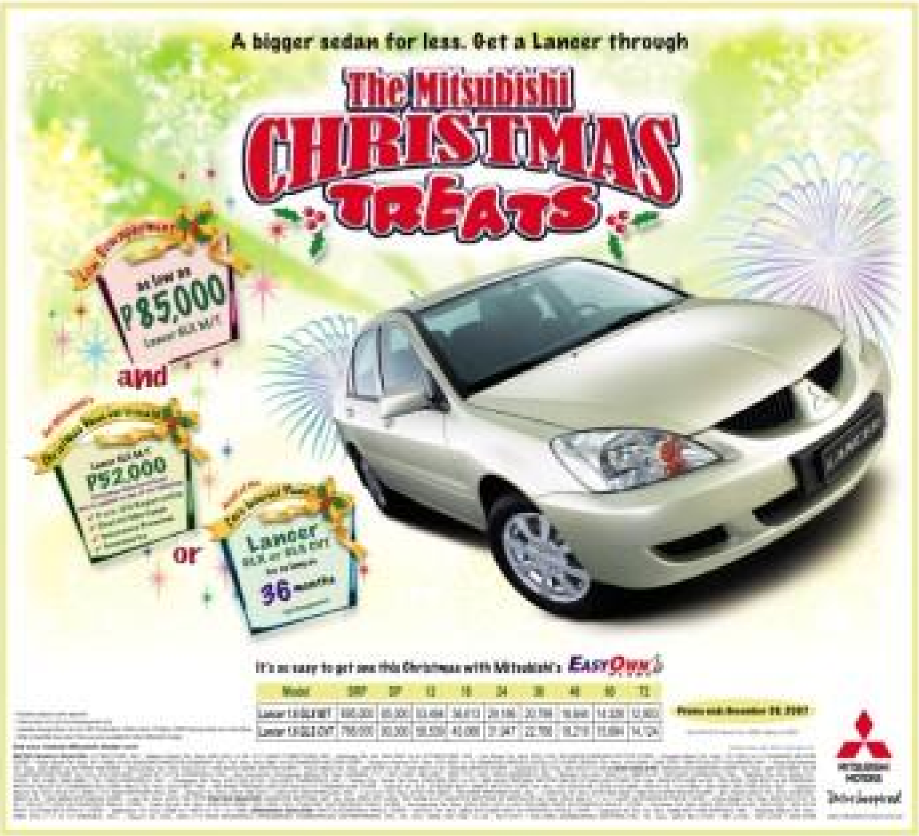
'Ninong' Erap is back

DENR TO DILG?

Atienza denies rumor of impending transfer

'Corrections bureau needs corrections'





Tarlac aims to become 'Belen' capital of RP

By Benedict Acierto
Inquirer Central Luzon

TARLAC CITY—THE CAMPAIGN [illegible] that the Tarlac has gained ground with the launch this year of "Belenismo sa Tarlac," a project that seeks to transform the province into the "Belen capital" of the Philippines.

Belenismo in Spanish means the art of making Belen, a representation of the Nativity scene in which the Holy Family (Joseph, Mary and the infant Jesus) is visited by the three wise men who came to the manger through the guidance of a star.

This year's Belen Festival ran from September, when the first Belen making workshop was conducted, to Dec. 14, the day the winning entries were chosen and awarded.

Organizers have intended the festival to become an annual event in the province.

Belen-making competition

"The (Belen-making) competitions brought out the very best in Tarlaqueños," said Isabel Cojuangco-Suntay, who led the project. "I am pleasantly surprised to discover how truly creative we are as a people."

Suntay, sister of former Ambassador Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., is president of the Tarlac Heritage Foundation, a non-government organization.

Aside from Suntay, the organizers include Tarlac Gov. Victor Yap; [illegible] president of the Tarlac Convention and Visitors Bureau; and Fr. Alex Bautista, head of the Tarlac Diocese's Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church.

About four months ago, the organizing committee of the "Belenismo sa Tarlac" started holding lectures and workshops where participants were taught to make Belen using various materials like styrofoam and cartons.

"The project was conceptualized to help create an annual tourist attraction for Tarlac, develop a Belen-related cottage industry and, of course, preserve the religious importance of remembering the birth of Jesus Christ," said Bautista.

On Dec. 14, Bro. Loreto Legaspi led the awarding of 16 winners in five categories—personal, grand, monumental, municipal and diorama.

Life-size

In the "personal" and "diorama" (sized) Belen with three sided categories, entries were transported to the judging site and submitted by individuals.

In the "monumental" category, entries were life-size, while entries in the "grand" category were at least three meters high.

In the "municipal" category, participated in exclusively by municipal governments, the entries were larger than life-size.

The Tarlac police office, led by Senior Supt. [illegible], won the first prize in the grand category with its Christmas lights-rich entry placed along the Romulo Highway portion of MacArthur Highway in Tarlac City.

Bautista said their Belen was built by at least 24 policemen, "some of whom had been trained as architects, engineers, artists and carpenters before they joined the (police) service."



FIRST PRIZE winner is this one by the Tarlac provincial police office, made by more than two dozen policemen, some of whom had background in electrical engineering and architecture.

The entry by Aniceto Cervantes [illegible], located in Barangay San Sebastian in Tarlac City, placed second. It caught the judges' eyes because it is made up entirely of plastic [illegible]. The entry by restaurant Coconut Grill was third.

In the municipal category, the top prize went to Victoria town while San Clemente town was second. The towns of Ramos and Capas tied for third place.



GRAND BELEN in Victoria, Tarlac won first prize in the municipal category.

Personal category

In the personal category, [illegible] of Barangay [illegible] in Sta. Ignacia town tied with [illegible] of Tarlac City for the top prize. They were followed by Ms. [illegible] of Barangay [illegible], also in Tarlac City.

In the monumental category, the winners were St. [illegible] [illegible] School, first place; [illegible], second; and [illegible] High School in Paniqui town, third.

In the diorama-making contest, the first prize winner, Albert [illegible], placed the Holy Family inside a clay pot and seen through a crack shaped like the map of Tarlac.

Equally interesting is the second prize winner created by provincial government employee Ramon Espinosa, who set the birth of Jesus Christ in front of the lobby of the Tarlac capitol.

To house the collection of dioramas, the provincial government put up the Museo de Tarlac, located a few meters from the Diwa ng Tarlac Building in Tarlac City.

Bautista, who teaches liturgical arts at the University of Santo Tomas, said although Makati City is also holding Belen contests yearly, Tarlac's activity is unique.



MODERN DAY REALITY is depicted in this Belen, which set the birth of Jesus Christ in a squatter community. This one placed third in the diorama category. Fr. Alex Bautista, who conceptualized the event, cited this as example of how the Belen can "reflect the prevailing social and economic conditions in society."

Tradition of Belen

"Ours is different because it's not just a contest. We're starting a tradition of Belen. For example, during Holy Week we can start visiting Belen sites. Visita Belen, and pray before them. There are prayers for Visita Belen, translated into different local languages like Ilokano, Kapampangan and Tagalog, meditating on the mystery of the incarnation of our Lord," he said.

"Third, hang tayo makakita na palabas. It's not only for show. People are invited to pray. That's why the Museo and the Belen exhibits were blessed because the principle is that they are objects for you to pray. So that you will remember the mystery of the birth of the Son of God."

The Daily Gospel

Tuesday, December 25, 2007
Christmas

1st Reading: Is 52:7-10
2nd Reading: Heb 1:1-6
Gospel: John 1:1-5, 9-14

In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God and the Word was God; he was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through him and without him nothing came to be. Whatever has come to be, found life in him, life which for humans was also light. Light that shines in the dark: light that darkness could not overcome.

[illegible]

It's a colder Christmas Day

EXPECT A COLDER CHRISTMAS Day weather today.

Yesterday's humid temperature will turn colder today when the cold weather-associated northeast monsoon sweeps back into the country, weather forecasters said yesterday.

"It will be a little colder especially at dawn," said forecaster Rene Paciente of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

The northeast monsoon or "amihan" will sweep down from northern China through Taiwan toward northern and central Luzon, and Metro Manila, and replace the moisture prevailing in some parts of the country, he said.

Monday's 22.5-degree centigrade recorded in Quezon City will drop by one or two degrees today, Paciente said.

Yesterday's humid weather was brought by the easterly, or warm, moist air from the northern Pacific Ocean, and aggravated by the fact that heat from the ground couldn't escape through the clouds into the atmosphere, he said.

The cold temperature is expected to last at least until Wednesday, according to Paciente.

The northeast monsoon, which sweeps down from the plateaus of mainland Asia to the Philippines beginning in late October, is expected to peak in February, according to Pagasa.

Today, rains are forecast to fall in the eastern sections of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, while the rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

Yesterday, a shallow low pressure area 110 km east of Visayas induced rainshowers in eastern Visayas and the Bicol region. But it's expected to dissipate in the next 24 hours.

So far, the bureau has not monitored any incoming typhoon.

Meanwhile, Pagasa doesn't expect 2007 to be the warmest year in the country because of the weather [illegible] La Niña.

Lourdes Tibig, head of Pagasa's climate data section and member of the Philippine delegation to the recent United Nations conference on climate change in Indonesia, however, [illegible].

She said they had yet to collate their data on the lowest temperatures from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 to make a conclusion.

The World Meteorological Organization has indicated that 2007 [illegible] to be the warmest year globally.

From Pope to Pepe: Seeing stars at Metro film fest

70th Christmas for tree that survived ...



It's orange ...

Prolific 11-year-old painter shares earnings with sick

Broadcaster murdered

Lintaan's 4 children

'Batman is dead'

A crocodile park

Death toll

81-year-old queen joins YouTube gen



The Royal Channel

Health experts warn revelers on deadly cholesterol

VEGGIE RESTOS

Growth of tumors

Do as he says

'Meat-sweet' diet

Still inconclusive

Major risk factors

Below WHO standards

'Malunggay'

NO ROOM AT INN

Peace talks spark tourism boom in Bethlehem

They came with joy

Other side of Bethlehem





...at the Nativity scene during a reenactment of the journey to ... part of Christmas festivities at the village of Nazareth in Israel.

'Come to Jerusalem, see the Messiah'

JERUSALEM—AS CHRISTMAS approaches, Christians around the world turn to thoughts of the Holy Land and the great figures in the Bible.

For some who come to visit, the religious energy is enough to make them write scriptures on the street or claim to be King David or Jesus.

The phenomenon is known as the Jerusalem Syndrome, although psychiatrists disagree whether it can affect otherwise healthy people or impact only those predisposed to psychosis to believe they have seen the Messiah.

The police set up a unit in the city—sacred to Jews, Muslims and Christians—to deal with the minority of tourists each year who believe they are characters from the Bible, and hospitals have special wards to treat wayward travelers.

During a walking tour of Jerusalem's Old City in 2005, tour operator Avi Kravis said a 15-year-old American participant saw the stones of the Western Wall, one of Judaism's holiest sites, open up and reveal the Messiah.

"He had a vision that the stones of the wall opened and the Messiah appeared and spoke to him," Green said. "He became delusional and violent and had to be hospitalized."

Between 50 and 60 tourists each year are admitted to hospital for similar behavior, according to Dr. Gregory Katz, head of the emergency unit at Kfar Shaul Mental Health Center. Of those, only a few are diagnosed with "true" Jerusalem Syndrome.

"It's extremely rare. It's only Jerusalem Syndrome if the person has had no prior psychiatric problems," Katz said. "It usually occurs on their first trip to the Holy Land. They see a meeting of the real Jerusalem and the Jerusalem from the Bible."

Most patients are middle-aged with strong religious foundations, hailing from small towns in the United States or Scandinavia, Katz said. They are usually on organized tours with religious groups and develop a feeling of ecstasy when they see holy places mentioned in the Bible.

"Add jet lag and not sleeping for a few nights, and they begin to identify with biblical characters," Katz said. "You might see them dressed in white and preaching at holy sites. Such behavior can be dangerous."

Katz described the syndrome's progression in an article published in the British Journal of Psychiatry in 2000. It starts with agitation and an urge to visit the city alone and ends with the need to deliver a sermon in a holy place.

He described a 35-year-old woman from a Christian tour group who, after three or four days without sleep, believed she was the Virgin Mary. The woman wrapped one of her hotel room sheets in a white dress and began preaching about her upcoming big day.

The episode lasts a few days, after which the person usually does not remember what happened, Katz said.

In 1986, Yossi Wolfowitz helped form the Israeli police tourism unit to deal with foreign travelers. Whenever there was a report of a missing tourist, his team was sent.

"We dealt with about a dozen delusional tourists a year ... with a spike during Christmas and Passover holidays when more tourists walk around and visit holy places," said Wolfowitz, who retired after working 14 years in the unit. Reuters

INQUIRER
OPINION

Spirit of peace

EDITORIALS

Spirit of love



'Hard as flint'

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

Silent nights, holy nights

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A memorable Christmas for some prisoners

POLITICAL TIDBITS



Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

Christmas stories

YOUNG BLOOD

Jan Frederick S. Foblete

Tradition

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

Between hope and despair

NEWSSTAND



John Nery

IN THE NEWS



Santa Claus

God's blessing to the nation

Sorrow is self-made

Where were Trillanes' sympathizers

Just one restroom for everyone at every LRT station

Tenor of headline questioned

Across the NATION

Sumilao farmers expect long struggle

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Inquirer Mindanao

SUMILAO, BUKIDNON—THE 55 FARMERS WHO marched 1,700 kilometers to Manila in 60 days returned home in San Vicente village here on Dec. 23 bringing "a little more meaning" to their Christmas.



Last stretch

Next steps

Farmers' gain should spread to others, says militant solon

By Jerome Aning

Union leader of banana firm claims getting new death threats amid job negotiations

NEWSBRIEFS

Drive vs firecrackers in Negros Oriental

LTO fires 12 deputized agents

Batasan blast victim recovering



MOONLIT CHRISTMAS

Slain UN worker home for Christmas

Baguio centennial passports to be offered to tourists



KINGS OF THE ROAD

The rough terrain in Tigbao, Zamboanga del Sur, force farmers to walk horses along with their harvest.

Benguet exec scores gov't on WB advisory on agri



Retired agriculturist helps Aeta replant native rice seedlings



VELEZ

Atienza gifts Baguio with 20-foot flag

Tree-cutting ban

Cebu trader linked to luxury car deals



QUIET GETAWAY

Unresolved coco levy issue spoils farmers' Yule mood

Tears

Proposed sale

Negros Oriental products showcased in Buglasan fest

Inmates' 'magic' toys lure Baguio folk



News

Bill's author asked: Where's the money?

By Christian V. Esguerra

PROPONENTS OF THE LANDMARK CHEAPER MEDICINES Bill measure have been approached by some of their colleagues asking if they stand to receive a monetary incentive in return for supporting House Bill No. 2844.

Hidden agenda

Price control just may kill medicine bill, advocates say

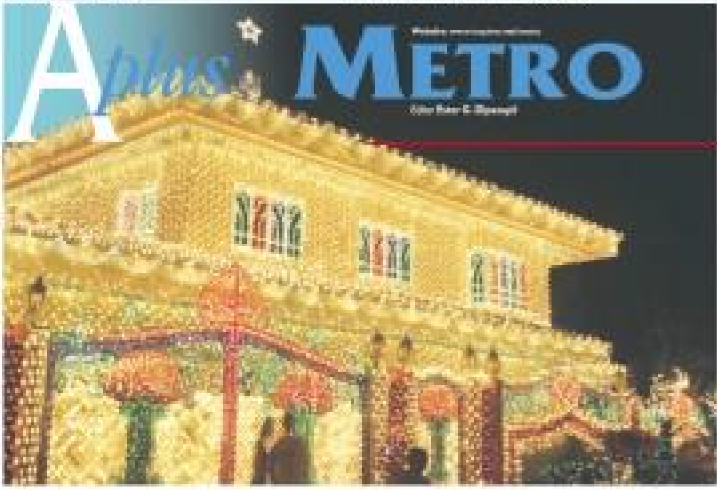
By Christian V. Esguerra

A HEALTH ADVOCACY GROUP HAS warned against a key provision in the Cheaper Medicines Bill, which seeks to create a body that would regulate drug prices in the country.

Empty promise

Parallel importation

A plus METRO



ALL IS CALM, ALL IS BRIGHT

DID YOU KNOW

6 men in helmets rob QC restaurant

Customers also lose cash, valuables in afternoon heist

A GROUP OF MEN WEARING MOTORCYCLE helmets walked into a packed Chinese restaurant in Quezon City at mid-afternoon yesterday and robbed the establishment and its customers.

Makati to end trying year with big bash



SOLITARY STROLLING

School comes to former worker's aid

Manila cops silence firearms, destroy toy guns



A POLICEMAN handles one of the toy guns that were seized from stores in Manila.

Trader in critical condition after stabbing

By Julie M. Aurelio



WISHING AND HOPING
A boy stares out of the window of his house in Vitas, Tondo, perhaps wondering what gifts Santa will bring for him on Christmas Day.

MetroBriefs

P64,000 lost in store break-in

Driver of hijacked truck found

Woman dies inside motel room

Jalosjos victim of a wishy-washy decision

On Target



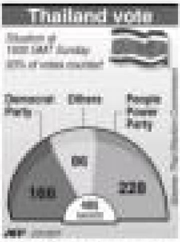
The WORLD



TSUNAMI MONUMENT

Victorious Thaksin allies set to form coalition gov't

BANGKOK — ALLIES OF ousted Thai premier Thaksin Shinawatra began hard bargaining Monday in a bid to form a coalition government after falling short of a majority in the first polls since last year's coup.



Saudi arrests 28 al-Qaida suspects over terror attack plot

US aid to Pakistan diverted, squandered, says NYT report

WorldBriefs

Turkey strikes Kurdish rebels

India's Hindu nationalists win poll

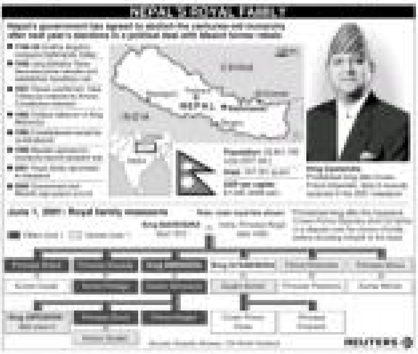
Bahrain detains 39

Suicide bomb kills 9 in Pakistan

Indonesia tightens security

Corsica bombings injure 2

Nepal to abolish monarchy; rebels rejoin gov't



Religion, health loom large in US election



Buddy
Kahit gaano man karami ang trip,
get to watch it with the leader, SMART.
With SMART, the leader in mobile entertainment, get to watch MORE of your favorite comedy, cartoons, fashion, sports, news, and celebrity videos on your cellphone anytime, anywhere!
Go to wap.smart.com.ph/3G and click on "TV" or "Downloads"
Mobile Videos
Disney Christmas
Funny Videos
Celebrities
Cartoons
Sports
TV
ABS-CBN
GMA
Discovery Channel
ENTERTAINMENT
SMART
THE POWER TO LEAD

SPORTS



Pacman will pay, Marquez says

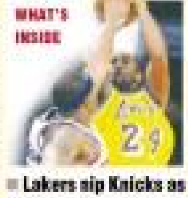
MEXICO CITY—WHILE BOXING SENSATION MANNY Pacquiao was enjoying his 29th birthday celebrations in the Philippines last week, his next opponent, Mexican champion Juan Manuel Marquez, began a grueling, three-month training regimen.



EXPLOSIVE CHRISTMAS TWINBILL

Giants try to claim special holiday present

WHAT'S INSIDE



Lakers nip Knicks as Kobe reaches NBA milestone A24

GMA wants Cuban coaches for pugs



Viloria hits comeback road versus Colombian

Baseball springs back to life



IM Sevillano finishes 2nd in American Open chess

No money, no medals—Puentevella

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

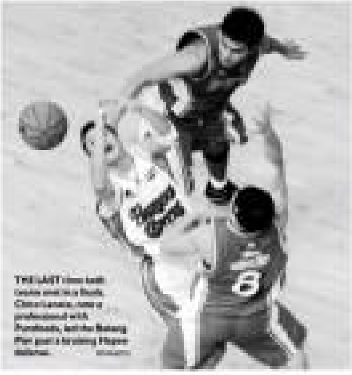
Rizal Day Executive tilt up



HAPEE VS HARBOUR CENTRE

History and a crown await PBL champion

By Jasmine W. Payo





Stop Norwood

Underlying drama

With Grand Slam count hiked to 12, Federer owns 2007

No slowing down taekwondo's Go

By Marc Anthony Reyes



Real Madrid moves seven points clear

Lakers nip Knicks as Kobe reaches NBA milestone



Clemens repeats steroids denials



Hot Patriots crush Eagles, near perfect NFL season

BUSINESS

Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Daniel G. Martinez

'Sin tax' collections remain anemic

Total for first 10 months down 0.7% at ₱34.78B

THE GOVERNMENT'S COLLECTION OF SO-CALLED "SIN taxes" remained anemic in the first 10 months of the year, registering a slight drop despite the increase in the tax rates.

[illegible]

IN THIS ISSUE

Christmas spending evolving toward 'more important' purchases

SPECIAL REPORT

[illegible]

CURRENCIES



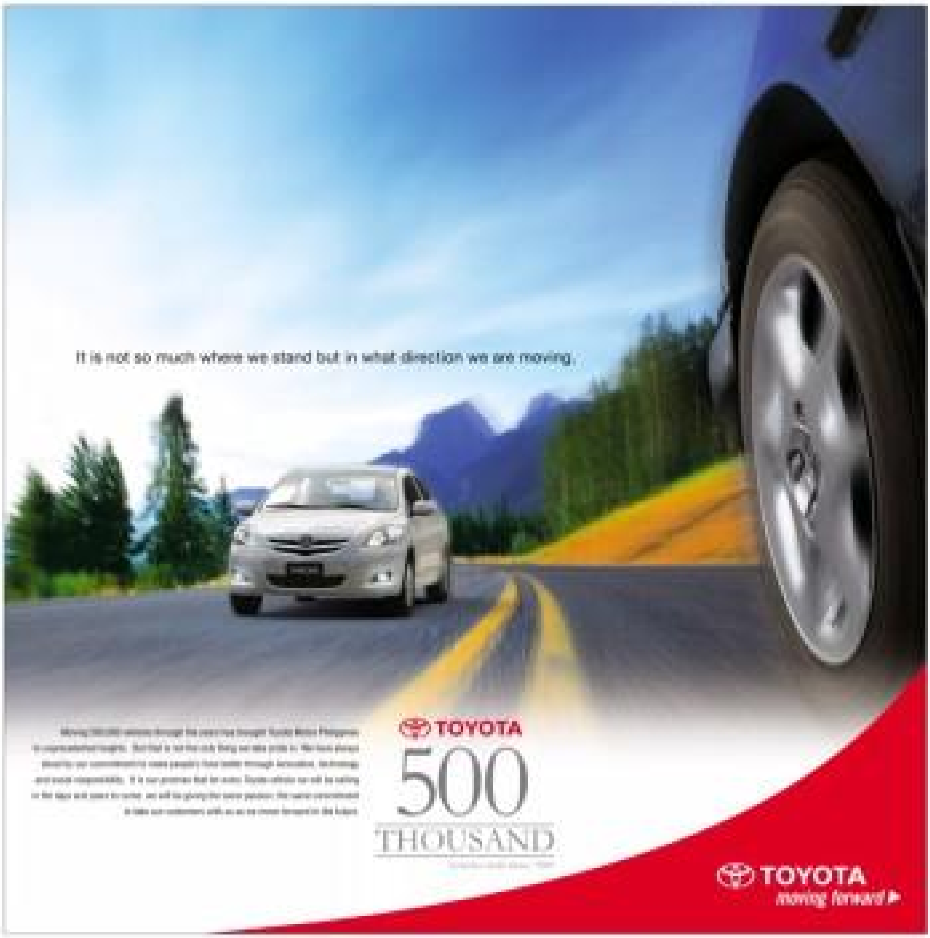
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

STOCK MARKET



Markets closed

[illegible]



Philex acquires 46% stake in Canadian exploration firm

Targets oil, gas prospects in Philippines

EastWest Bank raising capital by ₱2.25B in '08, eyes IPO in '09

'Sin tax' collections remain anemic

Christmas spending evolving toward 'more important' purchases

Lower corn stocks, higher prices seen in Central Luzon

Red, red rice for health buffs

Agrarian reform beneficiaries become largest producers of this organic crop







Korea to draw up $2-M master plan for Clark airport dev't



To drum up exports, Yap opens facilities for Pangasinan mango

China putting more money in Wall St.

Chinese gov't controlled funds buy stake in US financial firms



Recalls haunt toy companies

European retail sector faces ho-hum holiday season

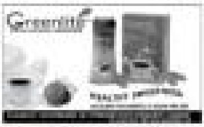


Web tool to compare executive pay launched

Alitalia picks Air France-KLM's 6.5-B euro rescue program



LIFESTYLE



Unlocking the mysteries of the heart and soul

Kabbalah aims to equip us with the tools to make positive changes



[illegible caption]

By Anna A. Jambora

[illegible]

Understanding life

[illegible]

Annotating the Bible

[illegible]



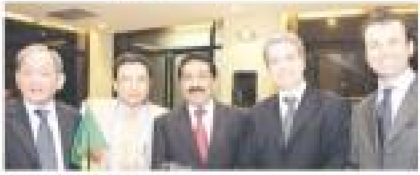








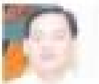






Zambia marks 43rd anniversary of independence day







WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache



Casual dining with style

Baptism & birthday





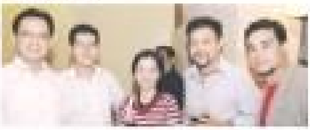


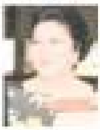
















Second pink bazaar a bigger success

[illegible]

CELEBRATE A COCA-COLA CHRISTMAS

Christmas won't be complete without a family Noche Buena, and Coke makes this salu-salo even more special by enlivening meals and making family bonding warmer.

This Coke Christmas Spirit lived on as the Coca-Cola Caravan traversed various cities and barangays this December to celebrate family Christmas cheer and bonding. Decked in bright Christmas lights and carrying loads of fun and games with it, the Christmas Caravan toured different cities and barangays to liven up the holidays.

With fun activities, games and prizes, it's successful Baguio leg garnered close to 40,000 visitors. And because it toured other cities and barangays in GMA as well as the rest of Luzon, the Coke Caravan has touched hundreds of thousands of people during this Christmas season.

But aside from that, Coke brings you the Coca-Cola Kasalo sa Pasko Promo which would surely be a Christmas treat for every family. Just buy Coke Litro and look under the cap to see if it's one of the winning Kasalo Caps. Then present the winning Kasalo Cap, along with 4 red Litro caps, to redeem special Kasalo Spoon and Fork collectibles at participating sari-sari stores and public markets nationwide. As of December 2, close to half a million cutlery sets have been redeemed and millions more to be given away until the redemption period ends on February 21, 2008.

With sets of Kasalo Spoons and Forks, and Coke Litro you're sure to have a splendid dining experience every day of the year.

Reinvent your lifestyle this Christmas



By Mitch Felipe

TODAY YOU CELEbrate the season with your family. [illegible]

Read your environment

[illegible]

Reflect on your past

[illegible]

Renew your thinking

[illegible]

Law of Compensation

INNER AWARENESS
Jaime Licauco

[illegible]

Healthy dessert

PEOPLE WITH A sweet tooth can make treats that will satisfy their craving for sugar and help keep their heart and body healthy.

[illegible]

Banana Oatmeal Choco Muffin

[illegible]



BANANA Oatmeal Choco Muffin



NUTTY Granola Bars

Nutty Granola Bars

[illegible]

A gift to yourself

[illegible]



NATURE'S Blessings' coconut health and beauty products

Unlocking the mysteries of the heart and soul

[illegible]

Breast-cancer screening goes digital

Inside Out
Gary Quirino

Saving grace



Moisturizing from head to toe



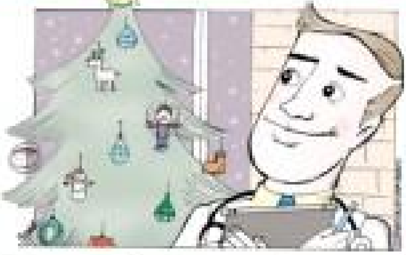






Holiday pampering

LIFESTYLE



Guess who's coming this Christmas



Holiday fun in RP's biggest mall







LAS PIÑAS BC

Paskong Pinoy is celebrated

MANILA BROADCASTING COMPANY (MBC) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines showcased Filipino Christmas traditions in Paskong Pinoy.

Misa de Gallo is celebrated beginning Dec. 16, with various [illegible] at openings, led by MBC and Star City on the first Mass.

On the first day of Simbang Gabi, about a thousand underprivileged children were fed and given gifts through Sagip, Kalinga at [illegible]. Special entertainment was provided by the Ramon Obusan Dance Company, [illegible] and Hallo Manila.

On Dec. 18, CCP's Performing Arts Dept. reenacted the Panunuluyan, the search of Mary and Joseph for lodging in Bethlehem, from Bayanihan and around the CCP Complex. Award-winning stage and film actor [illegible] played Joseph.

A parade of floats looking like giant lanterns was also held. The floats were the entries of nine colleges and universities in the Ilaw ng Pasko competition.

The Far Eastern University's College of Fine Arts depicted Christianity and Filipino Christmas traditions through various generations.

The College of St. Benilde paid tribute to migrant Filipino workers while the University of the East College of Fine Arts created an interplay of Filipino icons.

The Polytechnic University of the Philippines' College of Engineering interpreted Christmas in sound, light, and motion. The Technological University of the Philippines focused on the spirit of sharing and the Filipino's indomitable spirit in the face of adversity.

The De La Salle University's College of Engineering show how the spirit of Christmas was in every Filipino every day of the year.

The University of the Philippines' College of Architecture developed the concept of "[illegible]" while National University and Manila Business College showcased Filipino Christmas traditions.

Sixteen children's choirs competed for the grand prize of P100,000 in Himig ng Pasko. Each choir sang three numbers within 15 minutes, including the required competition piece "Kumukutikutitap."

Contestants included Batasan Hills Elementary School, Aurora Quezon Elementary School, Legarda Elementary School, St. Joseph Parish Las Piñas, Malate Catholic School, [illegible] of Santuario de San Jose Greenhills, Bagong Silangan Elementary School, [illegible], Coro Angelico of Isabelo de los Reyes Elementary School, Sacred Heart Academy of Pasig, [illegible] Elementary School, Lourdes School of Mandaluyong, Infant Jesus Academy of Marikina, [illegible] Elementary School, DSWD Children's Choir and Palanan Elementary School.

Top bands performed in Tunog ng Pasko. They included 6 Cycle Mind, Kamikazee, [illegible], Sponge Cola, Imago and Sandwich.



LEGARDA Elementary School

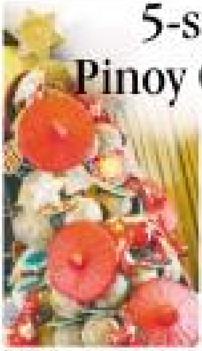


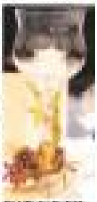
AURORA A. Quezon Elementary School



PAPIER mache star mobiles hang from the Club Lounge ceiling

5-star hotel's Pinoy Christmas





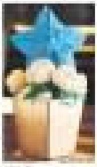
INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA HAS A Filipino Christmas this year. [illegible]

The installations can be seen at the [illegible] until Jan. 7.

[illegible]



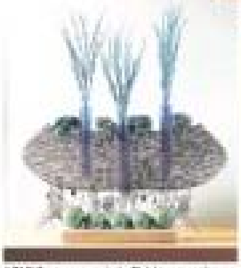
A WREATH at the door of the grand ballroom







AN ACCENT piece at the Prince Albert Rotisserie's show kitchen









The longest Yule log in Mandaluyong



European Christmases showcased

Para magkapiling pa rin kayo ng mga mahal niyo, pumili mula sa widest range of international services:

IDD calls

Para marinig ang pamilyar nilang boses, tawagan sila!

Dial: +(country code)(area code)(phone no.)

International SMS

Padalhan sila ng personalized Christmas greetings!

Text: +(country code)(area code) (cellphone no.)

International MMS

I-share sa kanila ang mga holiday moments niyo!

Send picture and SMS to: +(country code) (mobile code)(cellphone no.)

To activate your MMS:
Text GPRS ON and MMS ON to 333

To request for GPRS settings:
Text SET GPRS <phone model> to 211.
Ex: SET GPRS N6680

International 3G Video Calls

Mas masaya ang kwentuhan kapag face-to-face!

Dial: +(country code)(mobile code) (cellphone no.)
Choose "video call" in calling options.
Reminder: The person you're calling should have a 3G-phone at should be within a 3G area.

International Voice Text

Padalhan sila ng mga Christmas messages na pwede nilang i-retrieve anytime! (P10/voice text*)

1. To send: Dial *8900(country code) (area code)(cellphone no.)
   Ex: Dial *89009665092444444
2. To retrieve: Call the retrieval code included in the SMS alert or dial: *9900(country country code)(area code)(cellphone no.)
   Ex: Dial *89009665092444444
3. To reply: Press "1" upon message retrieval then follow voice prompts.

*Up to January 19, 2008



Gaano man sila kalayo, talagang mapapalapit ang mga mahal niyo sa buhay dahil sa napakaraming international services hatid ng SMART. Higit sa 3 billion international connections sa 200 destinations, talagang lumiit ang mundo dahil sa SMART.

Philippine Christmas lanterns shine in Sydney

THE PAROL, brilliant hallmark of the Filipino Christmas, shone brightly on the streets of Sydney during the major Australian city's recent Christmas parade. The Department of Tourism (DOT) organized the country's participation, which included a colorful float, performances by the Bayanihan Philippine National Folkdance Company, a festive kiosk at the park and a special raffle.

"The Philippines is known to have one of the liveliest and longest Christmas celebrations in the world. By showcasing our flair for festivities in this event, we encourage Australian travelers to come to our islands and experience the [illegible] and warmth of our people," said Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano.

Modeled after the famous Macy's Thanksgiving parade in New York, the first-ever Sydney Christmas Parade drew over 350,000 spectators that crammed the sidewalks and lined the windows of high-rise buildings. The pageant moved along a 1.9-km route that started at Wynyard Street and ended at Santa's Village in Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour, for a post-parade feast. Here, a kiosk was set up with souvenirs and information materials about the Philippines.

Tourism Undersecretary Eduardo Jarque Jr. and DOT Team Asia Pacific's marketing head [illegible] led the Philippine delegation. Philippine Airlines hosted the group's transportation requirements.



AUSTRALIAN media said the Philippine float added more color to the Christmas parade.

Colorful float

Floral designs of various colors decked the float, which also featured local instruments, tropical floral accents and pictures of various beach destinations. The 23-strong entourage from the world-famous Bayanihan Philippine National Folkdance Company followed the mobile display. They regaled viewers with a series of dances and musical numbers, giving a glimpse of the various sights and sounds of Philippine history, art and culture.

The Philippines was among the [illegible] floats and street performers from other countries that participated in the celebration.

The Bayanihan dancers and musicians were given a special segment at the parade's culminating festivities at Tumbalong Park in Darling Harbour. Here, the group delighted the audience further with three sets of performances.

"Our booth at the party in Tumbalong Park was crowded with Sydneysiders who wanted to take home more information about the islands. Moreover, members of Australia's top press outfits were keen on featuring our destinations in their programs and publications," reported DOT tourism attaché for Australia and New Zealand [illegible].

[illegible] said the Daily Telegraph's report took note of the Philippine float as helping inject more color and atmosphere into the pageant.

"This was a great opportunity for us to share the good things about our country. All the excitement they witnessed in one day moved them to find out more about our holiday attractions," said Jarque.

New Australian strategy

To help sustain Australian interest in the Philippines, the department formally launched on the same day the So Much, So Near online raffle. A lucky website visitor will [illegible] to win a luxury holiday to the Philippines, which includes airfare and accommodations at the five-star Sofitel Philippine Plaza in Manila.

"A lot of Australian tourists rely on the Internet when planning their vacation. This urges them to take the next step and see first-hand what our islands have to offer," Durano explained.

Durano said the DOT's participation in the parade was part of the new strategy to promote the Philippines as a destination that offers "so much, so near" to the Australian market.

"The new marketing tagline highlights the accessibility of our country's countless and varied adventures to Australia's travel market," Durano said. "The takeaway we'd like to impress on this group is that there are a lot of unique holiday experiences awaiting them nearby."

The So Much, So Near promotional mix takes into account rising Australian visits to the Philippines. Australia is the country's seventh largest source of visitor arrivals. A total of 79,048 Australian tourists came to the Philippines between January and September 2007. This figure reflects a 9.7-percent growth over the same period last year.

White Christmas

CHILDREN OF ALL AGES can experience white Christmas at Eastwood City Friday-Sunday until Dec. 31, 6-7 p.m. and 8-9 p.m.

Snow falls at Eastwood City at the Christmas Village at Citywalk 2 [illegible] a [illegible] winter wonderland.

Visitors can watch white bubbles fall from the second-floor balcony and imagine Santa's reindeer are really running down the icy path.

They will probably feel the coldness of the backdrop of the Nativity scene but will be kept warm by watching it with friends and family.

Then they can have their photographs taken to remember their white Christmas. Shoppers and diners can enjoy the scene at Eastwood City [illegible].



KIDS play with snow at Christmas Village.

A drama novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA



A-LIPIN



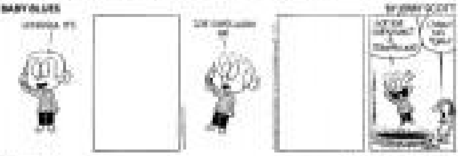
PUGAD BABOY



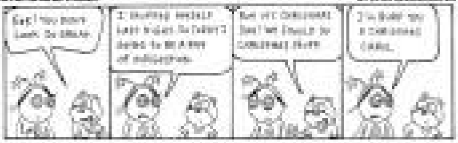
GARFIELD



BABY BLUES

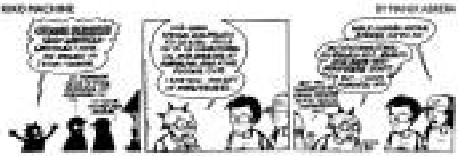


ATOMO AND WEEDY

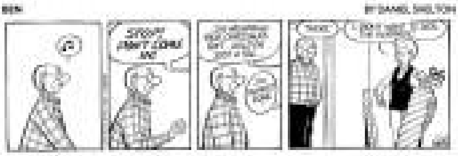


LOVENOTS

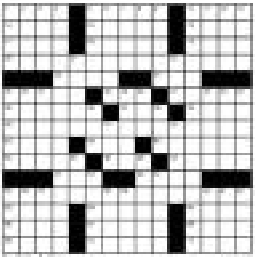


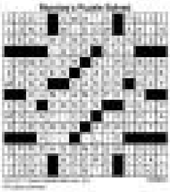


BEN



DAILY CROSSWORD





HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

					2	8		
			8	3	5	7		
							1	6
	1		9				2	4
	4						3	
2	8				4		5	
3	6							
		9	4	8	7			
		7	6					

Difficulty Level ★★

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

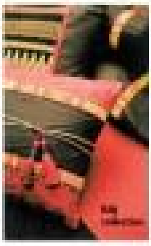


Home is Natori



NATORI'S bedding beauties include spreads, quilts and coverlets.







JOSIE Natori



Outdoor living room

Luxe gifts for the family









B&O's state-of-the-art TV and sound system



BANG & Olufsen's flagship store in Greenbelt 5, the first of its kind in the Philippines



FOR PEOPLE with a distinct taste for high-end audio and video products, B&O promises to satisfy their desires with its unique designs, superior craftsmanship and functional innovations.

An earful of Denmark in Manila

High-end audio and home-entertainment brand Bang & Olufsen makes its presence felt—and heard

By Alex Y. Vergara

WITH THE RECENT opening of the flagship store in Greenbelt 5 of the Danish high-end audio and video products manufacturer, Bang & Olufsen's (B&O), local techies and home-entertainment enthusiasts with an eye for form as well as function now have a new and accessible venue to go.

Thanks to the Manila presence, B&O's Filipino fans need not go to Singapore and Hong Kong to get their hands on the brand's latest as well as classic lines. Nor do they have to subject themselves to the hassles of personally importing certain units they fancy.

Shoppers are also now assured of getting immediate after-sales support, as the brand, through its local representative, has also opened a service center in Manila. A separate, but equally well-trained group can make suggestions and even visit clients' homes to help them make the most out of their home-entertainment systems.

Interestingly, the company has been around since 1925 and is carried by more than 650 stores worldwide, 48 of which are located in the Asia-Pacific region. Its main factory is still based in Struer, Denmark, while its regional office is located in Singapore.

"It was a matter of timing," said Roger Jansson, B&O's retail and development manager for the Southeast Asian market. "We wanted to make sure if the market was ready for our products. It was also a question of were we ready to launch in the Philippines."

The Philippine economy may not be as big as that of Malaysia or Thailand, but a considerable number of wealthy and well-traveled Filipinos are familiar with the brand. This, perhaps, explains B&O's move to go for a newly opened and upscale venue such as Greenbelt 5 in Makati over an older, more established mall with a more loyal clientele.

'Equally important'

"Our Manila store is equally important as our other stores abroad," said Jansson. "The only item it doesn't carry are cordless phones (pending government approval). We want our customers to walk around and experience B&O. The concept and the look for a store of this size are basically the same worldwide."



MARIO Katigbak with guests at the B&O flagship store's launch



B&O's retail and development manager for the Southeast Asia market Roger Jansson with Philippine partner Ruby Tantoco of Store Specialists, Inc.



BANG & Olufsen flat-screen TV with plasma display technology and LCD version

In keeping with the brand's heritage, its attention to detail extends to B&O's decision to choose the best local partner there is. After giving it considerable thought, Jansson believed that they've found the right one in Store Specialists, Inc.

"SSI has a long and impressive history of dealing with luxury brands," said Jansson. "Being the major luxury retailer in Manila, nobody knows retail better than it does. It has a highly competent staff and a strong commitment to make the partnership work."

Apart from pushing products, part of the commitment includes making customers happy and satisfied long after they've purchased a unit. Thus, SSI also manages B&O's service center as a separate company.

Despite its limited size (50 sq m), B&O's Greenbelt store manages to look sleek, compact and uncluttered just like the products it houses. One of its unique features is a centrally located revolving showcase that features three different video setups.



KNOWN for its excellent sound systems, B&O combines form with function.

"Because of the range of products and options we have, it's absolutely impossible for us to feature all of them at the same time," Jansson said. "The idea behind this turning room is to show customers various possibilities and combinations of products available to them."

Showcase

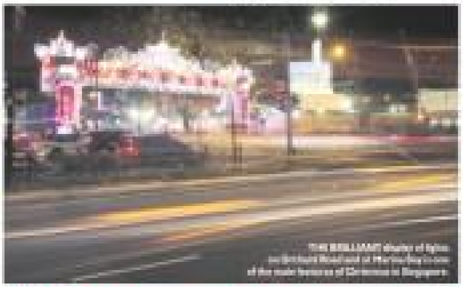
Such a movable showcase will also enable the staff to easily change the displays to keep customers interested and give them something to look forward to. Just like in an actual den or entertainment area, the showroom is equipped with a pair of leather chairs for customers to sit on and savor the sights and sound coming from B&O's latest technological innovations.

So-called music stations and other audio equipment are clustered in the store's peripheral areas. Although B&O's main thrust is to produce sleek, almost sculptural pieces of home-entertainment systems (including high-definition plasma TVs), most of its products are compatible with nearly all sorts of digital gadgets, including the ubiquitous iPod.

"Our music station enables customers to experience for themselves what their own iPods and mp3 players can do," said Jansson. "It connects with these gadgets and allows them to listen to music either through our speakers or headsets."

Since B&O, in Jansson's words "specializes in giving crème-de-la-crème quality," perhaps even the most iPod-mad customers would be surprised to find out what their iPods could do. Of course, it doesn't hurt that the Danish brand's designs are also works of art in themselves.







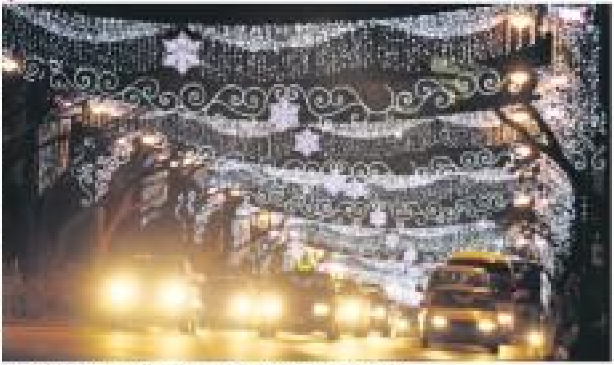


Merry tropical Christmas

SINGAPORE CELEbrates the holiday season with a myriad of festive activities, dubbed "Christmas in the Tropics."

[illegible]





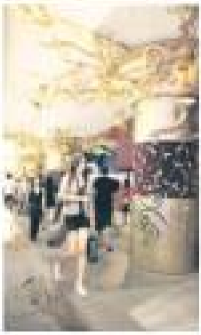


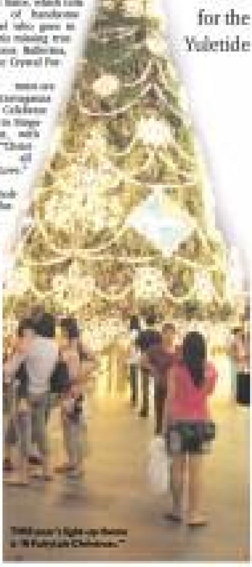


Singapore spruces up its tourist spots and events for the Yuletide











Entertainment



Christmas wish for RP movies



'Kubrador' off to New York

Year-long tour

Welcome party

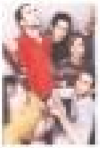
'Luminous performance'



Top US acts Manila-bound



MADONNA



MAROON 5

Metro Manila Film Festival 2007



Anak ng Kumander

Quotable quotes this week

CHEER FACTOR









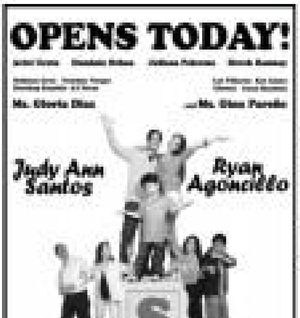


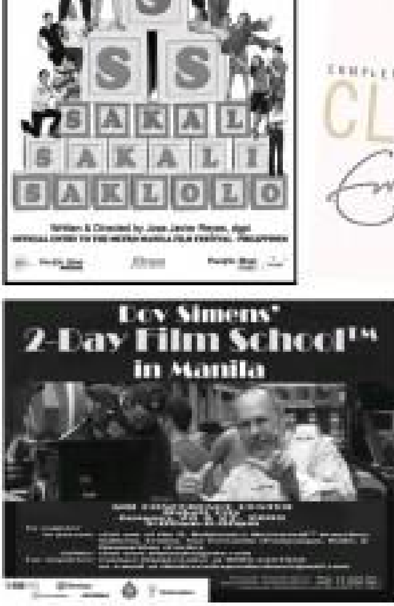


MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

OPENS SOON!

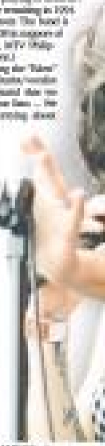




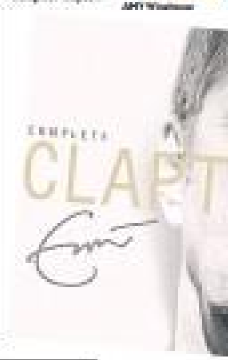
Amy Wineho

The Eagles' new album

'Complete Clapton'

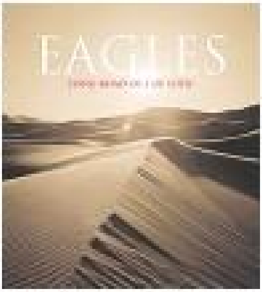


Amy Winehouse



Whitney's 'Ultimate Collection'

[partial] use on course to have this year's biggest seller in UK





Eric Clapton's "Complete Clapton" (WEA) is another double CD, a career retrospective of one of the world's greatest guitarists.

After a busy year filled with a world tour, an epic guitar festival and an absorbing autobiography comes this two-CD set—a 36-track compilation featuring songs from Clapton's recording career with Cream ("I Feel Free," "Sunshine of Your Love," "White Room," "Crossroads," "Badge"), Blind Faith ("Presence of the Lord"), Derek and the Dominos ("Bell Bottom Blues," "Layla"), plus lots of material from his solo albums (including tracks from "Unplugged") and some co-produced works with BB King and J.J. Cale.



Led Zep's 'Mothership'

Warner Music honors Led Zeppelin with the release of "Mothership," a 24-track, two-CD collection that spans the British band's career.

All eight of its classic studio albums are represented here, with tracks being personally selected by Jimmy Page, Robert Plant and John Paul Jones. It includes landmark songs such as "Whole Lotta Love," "Immigrant Song," "Rock and Roll," "Dazed and Confused," and "Stairway to Heaven." The set also includes a bonus DVD.

[illegible]

[illegible]



Matchbox 20 returns

[illegible]

[illegible]

Foo Fighters' 6th CD

[illegible]



Did You Know..

Willie Nelson's $40,000 thanks to Vancouver

VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON—Willie Nelson has not forgotten the town that knew him before he was famous.

The 74-year-old country singer has donated $40,000 to Vancouver, the southwestern Washington city where he sold some of his first records a half century ago.

In the late 1950s, Nelson worked as a disc jockey for Vancouver station KVAN. He financed and recorded the single "No Place for Me" and sold it to some of his listeners.

Vancouver received the $40,000 check three weeks ago. Last week, the city gave $15,000 to the Humane Society of Washington and $15,000 to the Boys and Girls Club. AP









ENTERTAINMENT

Naughty and nice lines from celebs in 2007

It seems the more controversies there are, the merrier the Christmas in show biz



DOLLY WOOD



Dolly Anne Carvajal

[illegible]

Naughty

[illegible]

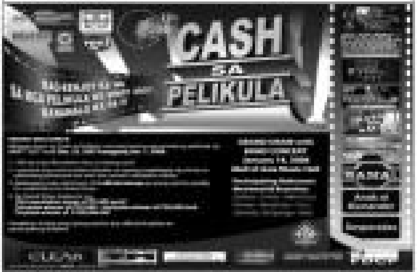
Nice

[illegible]

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO - THX	6 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
2 KATAS ng SAUDI	7 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL
3 RESIKLO	8 ENTENG KABISOTE 4
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 4	9 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
5 BAHAY KUBO	10 RESIKLO



ERMITA

1 RESIKLO	6 BAHAY KUBO
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 4	7 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
3 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO	1 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
4 KATAS ng SAUDI	2 RESIKLO
5 RESIKLO	3 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO

METRO EAST

1 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9	5 ENTENG KABISOTE 4
2 BAHAY KUBO	6 KATAS ng SAUDI
3 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO	7 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
4 RESIKLO	8 ENTENG KABISOTE 4

NOVALICHES

1 RESIKLO	5 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
2 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO	6 ENTENG KABISOTE 4
3 BAHAY KUBO	7 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
4 KATAS ng SAUDI	8 RESIKLO

PIONEER

1 RESIKLO	3 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
2 BAHAY KUBO	4 KATAS ng SAUDI

STA. ROSA	LIPA
1 RESIKLO	1 RESIKLO
2 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO	2 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
3 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9	3 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 4	4 ENTENG KABISOTE 4
5 BAHAY KUBO	5 BAHAY KUBO

DASMARIÑAS	IMUS
1 RESIKLO	1 RESIKLO
2 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO	2 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
3 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9	3 BAHAY KUBO
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 4	4 KATAS ng SAUDI
5 BAHAY KUBO	5 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
	6 ENTENG KABISOTE 4

ANGELES	TARLAC
1 RESIKLO	1 RESIKLO
2 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO	2 ENTENG KABISOTE 4
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 4	3 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
4 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9	

STARMILLS

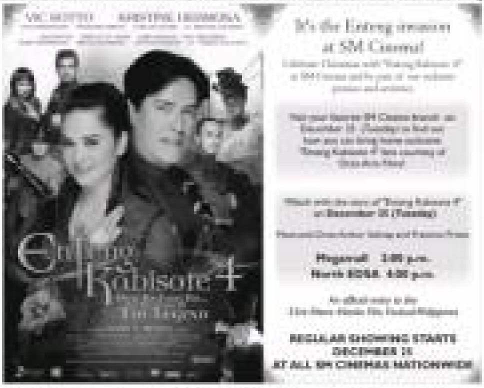
1 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9	4 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
2 BAHAY KUBO	5 RESIKLO
3 KATAS ng SAUDI	6 ENTENG KABISOTE 4

BACOLOD	ILOILO
1 RESIKLO	1 RESIKLO
2 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO	2 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
3 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9	3 BAHAY KUBO
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 4	4 KATAS ng SAUDI
5 BAHAY KUBO	5 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
6 KATAS ng SAUDI	6 ENTENG KABISOTE 4



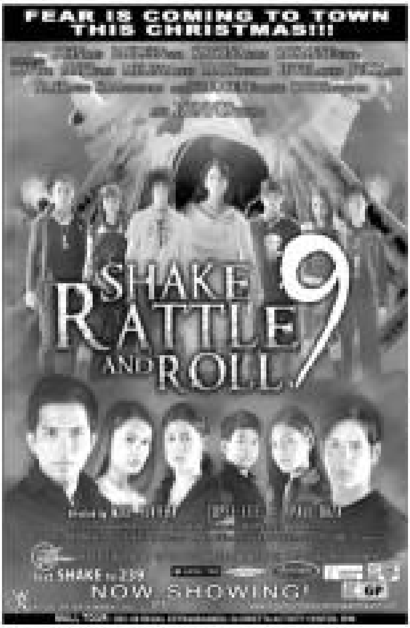
SM Cinema — movietime SHOWTIME

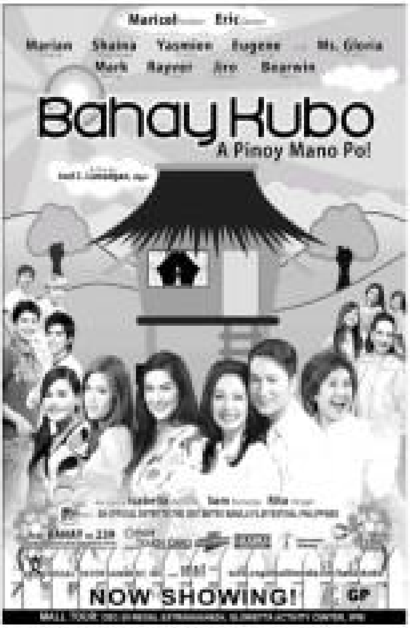
Your life as a movie





Naughty and nice lines from celebs in 2007





At the Cinemas

Cinema				
GLORIETTA 1	1 DEATH PROOF	2 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	3 BATANES	4 HITMAN
GLORIETTA 4	1 ENCHANTED	2 THE KINGDOM	3 ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE	
GLORIETTA 4	4 DEATH PROOF	5 GONE BABY GONE	6 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	7 MARTIAN CHILD
GREENBELT 1	1 MARTIAN CHILD	2 THE GOLDEN COMPASS		
GREENBELT 3	1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	2 ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE		
GREENBELT 3	3 MARTIAN CHILD	4 GONE BABY GONE	5 ENCHANTED	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	2 THE GOLDEN COMPASS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	3 MARTIAN CHILD	4 GONE BABY GONE	5 ENCHANTED	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	2 THE GAME PLAN	3 FRED CLAUS	4 LUST CAUTION
MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	2 ENCHANTED		
MARKET! MARKET!	3 MARTIAN CHILD	4 ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE	5 THE KINGDOM	
TRINOMA	1 BATANES	2 DEATH PROOF	3 ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE	4 MARTIAN CHILD
TRINOMA	5 ENCHANTED	6 FRED CLAUS	7 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	

At the Malls

Glorietta — Taylor Hicks Live!

Greenbelt — Taylor Hicks Live!

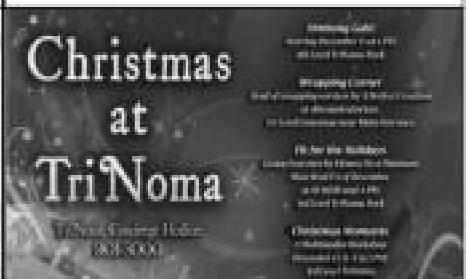
Alabang Town Center — Christian Bautista Live!

Ayala Center Cebu

Market! Market! — Japan Foundation Karate Demonstration

TriNoma — Taylor Hicks Live!







KATAS NG SAUDI
Judy Ann Santos
Ryan Agoncillo
SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
Bahay Kubo
A Pinoy Mano Po!
OPENS DECEMBER 25, 2007
DESPERADAS
IN THEATERS JANUARY 1
THE
WORLD'S
BEST MOVIES
ARE SHOT ON
FILM.
Kodak